

**West Palm Beach VA Medical Center**  
**Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2011**  
**Pharmacy VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program**

**Background:**

The Pharmacy VALOR Program was initiated in the spring of 2007; this honors program provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. Opportunities for learning include didactic or classroom experiences, competency-based clinical practice with a qualified pharmacist preceptor, and participation in pharmacy practice conferences. Students recruited for the program must be attending a School or College of Pharmacy. Students may be appointed on a full basis during the summer months and may continue during their final academic year on a part-time basis.

**KEY POINTS:**

- Appointment as a VALOR student will be from September 2009 to October 2010, with a usual minimum requirement of 400 hours. Students will be expected to work during normal business hours (Mon-Fri 8-430pm) when they are out of school, either summer breaks or when not on 4<sup>th</sup> year rotations.
- Students will be appointed under 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 7405(a)(1)(D) at a salary equal to 80 percent of the local VA facility's per annum salary rate for GS-9, Step 1 on the **general schedule** including the locality adjustment of the current year (approximately \$18 per hour).
- Two (2) students will be chosen for the program that are currently in their **2<sup>nd</sup> professional year** and two (2) students will be chosen for the program that are currently in their **3<sup>rd</sup> professional year**.
- Students chosen that are currently in their 2<sup>nd</sup> professional year will be expected to complete required hours during the summer break 2010 between their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years.
- Students chosen that are currently in their 3<sup>rd</sup> professional year will be expected to complete the required hours during their 4<sup>th</sup> professional year when they are not scheduled on P4 rotations (during "off" blocks)

**Student requirements:**

- a. A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale based on their last completed semester;

- b. Be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours as a Pharmacy VALOR student in a VA facility and
- c. Be a United States citizen and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR program.

*NOTE: Students with a service obligation to any Federal, State, or private institution, or recipients of any Federal scholarships are ineligible for the Pharmacy VALOR Program.*

**To apply:**

- (1) Submit an Application for Federal Employment (10-2850c) to the WPB VA for consideration for the VALOR program.



Appl for Pharm  
vha-10-2850c-fill.pdf

- (2) Provide a copy of the Official transcript

- (3) Submit the most current Curriculum Vitae

- (4) Submit a letter from the Dean/Director of School or College of Pharmacy to the Chief, Pharmacy Services of the chosen VA medical center.

**Note:** The letter should include the following: a nomination of the student to the program; verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school); successful completion of the second year of pharmacy education (minimally fourth year of college education) by the time the student enters into the program; and anticipated graduation within two years after entry into the Pharmacy VALOR Program.

- (5) Attend an on-site interview as indicated with program coordinator and designated staff

**Submit Application materials no later than January 15, 2010 to:**

**Hiroko Forbes, PharmD  
Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor  
VA Medical Center  
Pharmacy Service (119)  
7305 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33410**

**Questions may be addressed to Hiroko Forbes, PharmD at 561-422-7203  
([Hiroko.forbes@va.gov](mailto:Hiroko.forbes@va.gov)) or Julie Groppi, PharmD, CDE at 561-422-7597 ([Julie.groppi@va.gov](mailto:Julie.groppi@va.gov))**